

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium with computer-readable instructions for a hardware/software interface system for a computer system, wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises a base schema and manipulates a plurality of discrete units of information having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system, ~~("Items")~~ Items, the base schema defining Item, Property Base, and Extension types, wherein the Item type is defined by properties of a foundational Item type, the Property Base type being an anchor from which other property types are derived and through which derived property types are interrelated, and the Extension type defines which Item an extension extends and identification to distinguish one extension from another.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein ~~said hardware/software interface system comprises a~~ the base schema to define further defines at least one of an Item and at least one of a property.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 2 wherein at least one of an Item in the base schema is a foundational Item, ~~constituting a foundational Item type,~~ from which all other Items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

Claim 4 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein said foundational Item type comprises a property for referencing at least zero Categories to which said Item is a member.

Claim 5 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein said foundational Item type comprises a property for a unique identification of said Item in a hardware/software interface system.

Claim 6 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 2 wherein at least one of a property in the base schema is a foundational property, constituting a foundational property type, from which all other properties utilized in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 2 wherein:

at least one of an Item ~~[[is]]~~ in the base schema is a foundational Item, ~~constituting a foundational Item type~~, from which all other Items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived; and

at least one of a property in the base schema is a foundational property, constituting a foundational property type, from which all other properties utilized in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the base schema further comprises a second Item derived from the foundational Item type, (the first Item), said second Item constituting the foundational type for an Item Folder, and said second Item expressing a Relationship to said first Item.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the base schema further comprises a second property derived from the foundational property type, (the first property), said second property constituting the foundational type for an ~~id unit~~ id unit key property.

Claim 10 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the base schema further comprises a third property derived from the second property, said third property constituting the foundational type for a Category reference.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the base schema further comprises a second property derived from the foundational property type, (the first property), said second property constituting the foundational type for Categories.

Claim 12 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the base schema further comprises a third property derived from the second property, said third property constituting the foundational type for a Relationship.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said third property constituting the foundational type for a Relationship comprises a property, (Target), for identifying a target Item of said Relationship and a property, (IsOwned), for denoting whether said Relationship owns said target Item.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A hardware/software interface system for manipulating, in a computer system, a plurality of discrete units of information having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system, Items ("Items"), the hardware/software interface system comprising a base schema defining Item, Property Base, and Extension types, wherein the Item type is defined by properties of a foundational Item type, the Property Base type being an anchor from which other property types are derived and through which derived property types are interrelated, and the Extension type defines which Item an extension extends and identification to distinguish one extension from another.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 14 wherein ~~said hardware/software interface system comprises a~~ the base schema ~~to define~~ further defines at least one of an Item and at least one of a property.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 15 wherein at least one of an Item in the base schema is a foundational Item, ~~constituting a~~

~~foundational Item type~~, from which all other Items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

Claim 17 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 16 wherein said foundational Item type comprises a property for referencing at least zero Categories to which said Item is a member.

Claim 18 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 16 wherein said foundational Item type comprises a property for a unique identification of said Item in a hardware/software interface system.

Claim 19 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 15 wherein at least one of a property in the base schema is a foundational property, constituting a foundational property type, from which all other properties utilized in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 15 wherein:

at least one of an Item ~~[[is]]~~ in the base schema is a foundational Item, ~~constituting a foundational Item type~~, from which all other Items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived; and

at least one of a property in the base schema is a foundational property, constituting a foundational property type, from which all other properties utilized in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 20 wherein the base schema further comprises a second Item derived from the foundational Item type, (the first Item), said second Item constituting the foundational type for an Item Folder, and said second Item expressing a Relationship to said first Item.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 20 wherein the base schema further comprises a second property derived from the foundational property type<sub>1</sub> (the first property), said second property constituting the foundational type for an ~~idunit~~ id unit key property.

Claim 23 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 22 wherein the base schema further comprises a third property derived from the second property, said third property constituting the foundational type for a Category reference.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 20 wherein the base schema further comprises a second property derived from the foundational property type<sub>1</sub> (the first property), said second property constituting the foundational type for Categories.

Claim 25 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 24 wherein the base schema further comprises a third property derived from the second property, said third property constituting the foundational type for a Relationship.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 25 wherein said third property constituting the foundational type for a Relationship comprises a property<sub>1</sub> (Target)<sub>1</sub> for identifying a target Item of said Relationship and a property<sub>1</sub> (IsOwned)<sub>1</sub> for denoting whether said Relationship owns said target Item.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A method, in a computer system, for a hardware/software interface system to manipulate a plurality of discrete units of information having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system, Items ("Items"), said method comprising defining a base schema comprising:

Item, Property Base, and Extension types, wherein the Item type is defined by properties of a foundational Item type, the Property Base type being an anchor from which other property types are derived and through which derived property types are interrelated, and the Extension type defines which Item an extension extends and identification to distinguish one extension from another,

at least one of an Item as a base Item from which all other Items are derived, and

at least one of a property as a base property from which all other properties are derived.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 27 wherein said base Item comprises a property for referencing at least zero Categories to which said base Item is a member.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 27 wherein said base Item comprises a property for a unique identification of said base Item in said hardware/software interface system.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 29 wherein the base schema further comprises a second Item derived from the base Item, (a first Item), said second Item constituting the base type for an Item Folder, and said second Item expressing a Relationship to said first Item.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 29 wherein the base schema further comprises a second property derived from the base property, (a first property), said second property constituting the base type for an ~~id unit~~ id unit key property.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 31 wherein the base schema further comprises a third property derived from the second property, said third property constituting the base type for a Category reference.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 29 wherein the base schema further comprises a second property derived from the base property, {the first property}, said second property constituting the base type for Categories.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 33 wherein the base schema further comprises a third property derived from the second property, said third property constituting the base type for a Relationship.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 34 wherein said third property constituting the base type for a Relationship comprises a property, {Target}, for identifying a target Item of said Relationship and a property, {IsOwned}, for denoting whether said Relationship owns said target Item.